

III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
A FORCE IN READINESS
MARINE CORPS BASES JAPAN



III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Commanded by a lieutenant general with its headquarters at Camp Courtney on Okinawa, III MEF's mission is to maintain a forward presence in Japan supporting the U.S.- Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security and other alliance relationships in the Asia-Pacific region.

III MEF is organized as a Marine Air Ground Task Force. The MAGTF designation refers to the basic framework for organizing deployable units and a MEF is the largest of all the MAGTFs. The mission dictates the MAGTF's scale and structure, giving the Marine Corps the flexibility to respond to any crisis. Without its flexibility, a MAGTF would not be the "force in readiness" it is. A MAGTF can range in size from several hundred to tens of thousands of Marines and Sailors.

Each MAGTF has a command element, a ground combat element, an aviation combat element, and a logistics combat element.

The ground combat element of III MEF is the 3d Marine Division, the aviation combat element is the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and the logistics combat element is the 3d Marine Logistics Group.

The majority of III MEF forces are located on Okinawa and total nearly 18,000 Marines and Sailors at 10 camps and stations. More than 3,200 Marines and Sailors are stationed on mainland Japan at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

Additionally, III MEF has a potent slice of combat power with more than 5,000 Marines and Sailors stationed in Hawaii,

primarily from the 3d Marine Division.

III MEF Marines and Sailors engage in more than 70 combined or bilateral training exercises annually in countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea, and Australia. These exercises help develop and maintain strong regional alliances and military-to-military contacts. These exercises enable III MEF to be prepared to conduct operations ranging from major combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

III MEF has played a significant role in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions in the region.

-Nov. 2004: Philippine typhoon response (Joint Task Force-535)


-Dec. 2004 – Mar 2005: Asian tsunami (Combined Task Force-536)

-Oct 2005 – Mar 2006: Pakistan earthquake response (3d MLG)

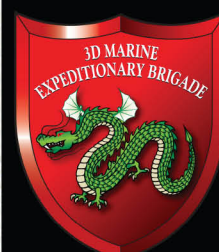
-Mar – Apr 2006: Philippine mudslide response (31st Marine Expeditionary Unit/3d MarDiv)


-May – Jun 2006: Indonesian earthquake response (3d MLG)

-Nov 2007: Bangladesh Cyclone response (3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade)

III MEF Marines are also active members of the communities in which they train and host various community relations activities and civic assistance programs, both on Okinawa and throughout the Asia/Pacific region. Examples include: providing free medical and dental care in Indonesia and the Philippines, helping to repair an orphanage in Korea, building new school houses in Thailand, and teaching English to Japanese students. 

3D MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE




The 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, commanded by the Deputy MEF commander is embedded within III MEF. The 3d MEB includes a ground combat element consisting of a reinforced infantry regiment, an aviation combat element consisting of a composite aviation group, and a logistics combat element consisting of a Combat Logistics Regiment. The MEB can marry up with a maritime prepositioning squadron and facilitate expansion to a larger MEF-size force or form the nucleus of a joint task force headquarters. When a mission in the Asia-Pacific region requires a large MAGTF but doesn't require the full force of the III MEF, the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade gets the call. 



31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT



The smallest but most active of the III MEF contingency forces is the forward-deployed 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit comprised of approximately 2,200 Marines and Sailors and commanded by a colonel. When embarked aboard the ships of Amphibious Ready Group Eleven (normally consisting of a Amphibious Assault Ship, Landing Ship Dock, & Amphibious Transport Dock), this Navy-Marine Corps team represents one of the most viable crisis response options available. Among them: it works as a contingent of the deployed presence, conducts amphibious operations of limited duration, acts as an advance force for a larger follow-on MAGTF, and provides an immediate response capability across a wide spectrum of crisis/contingencies by conducting maritime-oriented missions.

The MEU is fully capable of conducting operations that would be out of the ordinary for other units, such as tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel and Long Range Raids. The 31st MEU consists of a reinforced infantry battalion landing team; a composite aviation squadron that contains heavy and medium lift helicopters, Cobra gun ships and AV-8B Harriers; and a combat logistics battalion. The 31st MEU, headquartered at Camp Hansen on Okinawa, is the only permanently forward-deployed MEU in the Marine Corps. 

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“The 3d Marine Division stands ready to react at a moment’s notice to dangers.”

The 3d Marine Division is the Ground Combat Element of III Marine Expeditionary Force and is commanded by a major general. The more than 6,500 Marines and Sailors of the 3d Marine Division are organized in seven major subordinate units: Headquarters Battalion at Camp Courtney; 12th Marine Regiment at Camp Hansen; 4th Marine Regiment, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion and Combat Assault Battalion at Camp Schwab; and 3d Marine Regiment at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. The Division also operates the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, the only training center dedicated to jungle warfare training within the Department of Defense.

3d Marine Division is unique because it participates in the Unit Deployment Program, which is a system that rotates infantry battalions, artillery batteries and light armored vehicle and amphibious assault vehicle companies from the U.S. to Okinawa for six or seven month cycles.

The 3d Marine Division stands ready to react at a moment’s notice to dangers that threaten American interests, threats associated with regional stability and natural disasters

that impact our regional neighbors. Elements of 3d Marine Division frequently deploy throughout the Pacific Theater on numerous training exercises. In recent years, the 3d Marine Division participated in humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations in Pakistan, Indonesia, the Solomon Islands, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

The Division supports Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom by way of individual augmentments and unit deployments. Since 2003, the Division has deployed more than 11,500 Marines and Sailors in support of these operations. 



1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING




The mission of the aircraft wing is to conduct air operations in support of the Fleet Marine Forces to include offensive air support, anti-air warfare, assault support, aerial reconnaissance including active and passive electronic countermeasures, and control of aircraft and missiles. As a collateral function, the wing may participate as an integral component of Naval Aviation in the execution of such other Navy functions as the Fleet Commander may direct.

1st MAW, commanded by a major general, consists of approximately 6,500 Marines and Sailors, approximately 160 aircraft, and is organized into a fixed wing/fighter attack group (Marine Air Group 12 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni), two rotary assault/support groups (MAG-36 at MCAS Futenma; MAG-24 at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii), an aviation command and control group (Marine Air Control Group 18), and an aviation ground support group (Marine Wing Support Group 17)

The Wing headquarters is co-located with MCB Camp Butler headquarters at Camp Foster. The majority of the Wing's rotary-wing aircraft, air control and aviation ground support assets are stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. These include the CH-53E and D Super/Sea Stallion and CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters. The AH-1W Cobra attack helicopters, UH-1N Huey helicopters and KC-130J Super Hercules, also stationed at MCAS Futenma, provide a powerful combination of firepower and assault support. The Wing's remaining units are stationed at MCAS Iwakuni, on mainland Japan and include F/A-18 Hornets and AV-8B Harriers. Also, the Wing has CH 53 D Sea Stallions aircraft at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

The 1st MAW is supported by the Unit Deployment Program. Two F/A-18 squadrons, one electronic warfare squadron one heavy lift helicopter squadron, and one light attack helicopter squadron deploy to Japan every six months from the United States.


1st Marine Aircraft Wing has distinguished itself in both combat operations and humanitarian relief efforts around the Pacific. For years, 1st MAW has been a key player in providing aid to areas devastated by tsunamis, typhoons, mudslides and other disasters. Currently, 1st MAW is making great contributions to the Global War on Terrorism and regularly participates in numerous training and humanitarian assistance operations around the Asia-Pacific region. 

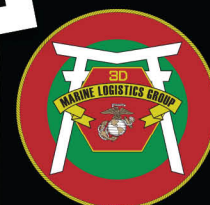


3D MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP



The 3d Marine Logistics group provides responsive, quality logistics support to III MEF, other Marine, joint and combined forces and federal agencies as directed, through expeditionary means, forward basing and global sourcing. The 3d MLG is a Navy-Marine Corps team fully mission-capable of providing quality logistics in the Western Pacific and responding to global sourcing requirements.

The 3d MLG is commanded by a brigadier general and consists of approximately 4,800 Marines and Sailors. The 3d MLG has its headquarters at Camp Kinser and five subordinate commands spread throughout Okinawa, Hawaii and mainland Japan, to include: a general support regiment (Combat Logistics Regiment 35), another general support regiment (Combat Logistics Regiment 37), a direct support regiment (Combat Logistics Regiment 3), and two separate Battalions, 9th Engineer Support Battalion and 3d Dental Battalion. Headquarters Marine Corps modernization efforts include a directed transformation of the logistics combat element to more effectively support current and future war-fighting requirements. Transformation efforts within 3d MLG are ongoing and are designed to facilitate planning and execution, enhance the deployability and the ability to task organize, increase lethality and extend the operational reach of the MAGTF. Logistics modernization efforts pioneered at 3d MLG have led to III MEF being designated the focus of effort for Global Combat Support System-Marine Corps development and execution. 




GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM



Since 2003, thousands of Marines and Sailors from III MEF's Okinawa-based major subordinate commands and Marine Corps Bases Japan have deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Horn of Africa, and the Philippines in support of Global War on Terrorism operations. The Marines and Sailors of these commands have filled both individual augment billets and served in unit deployments. Each year, several hundred personnel from III MEF/MCBJ deploy as joint individual augments for either six or 12 month tours.

Additionally, infantry battalions assigned to 3d Marine Division routinely deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, as do aviation units from 1st MAW and smaller detachments from intelligence, medical, and combat engineers.

In 2006 and 2007, combat service support was provided by 9th Engineer Support Battalion and Combat Logistics Battalion 4 from 3d MLG, totaling approximately 1,400 personnel. Both have become rotational units that have the enduring requirement to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2006, 3d MarDiv took on the responsibility of providing Embedded Training Teams to assist the Afghan National Army in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The teams were also provided by 3d MLG and 1st MAW in 2008. The ANA ETTs are comprised of 149 personnel, predominantly officers and staff noncommissioned officers. 



MARINE CORPS BASES JAPAN



Marine Corps Bases Japan is comprised of approximately 1,900 service members, and 500 U.S. civilian employees, and more than 4,000 Japanese workers on Okinawa, MCAS Iwakuni and Camp Fuji. The mission of MCBJ is to provide facilities, training and logistical support, formal schools and limited administration support to III Marine Expeditionary Force and its major subordinate commands located in Japan. It is through the training and deployment support offered that these units maintain combat readiness and their ability to support the U.S.-Japan Mutual Defense Treaty.

Comprehensive and realistic training has long been recognized as a key factor in maintaining combat readiness. MCBJ training complexes employ a mix of the latest technologies, supporting both virtual and live training. A comprehensive array of ranges, targeting systems and simulators help III MEF Marines remain proficient in basic military combat skills.

Whether participating in real world operations or exercises, MCBJ supports units before, during and after each deployment. MCBJ also provides a wide range of critical transportation, administrative and logistical support for the operational forces located in Japan.

While operating the largest U.S. military training areas in Asia and

supporting deployed units, MCBJ fully integrates natural and cultural resource preservation principles into its day-to-day operations. MCBJ is committed to enhancing operational readiness while complying with environmental laws and regulations through effective and award-winning environmental programs.

Effective planning and close cooperation with surrounding municipalities and other Japanese and Okinawan agencies provides Marines and Sailors access to a wide array of modern training ranges and facilities. These partnerships also ensure a unified effort in supporting stability in the Pacific region. The numerous areas of mutual interest make it essential that MCBJ and the surrounding municipalities engage in bilateral planning and form a strong, long-term, mutually beneficial partnership. This continually developing relationship defines our community relations effort.






Marines are not merely deployed here to Japan – we live here in Japan as part of the community. We live, work, and raise our families here in Japan. While we are good allies, more importantly, we are great neighbors and desire to maintain good relations. Through interaction with local public and community leaders, Marines and Sailors gain a greater appreciation of Japan's culture and diversity.

All Marines who report to Japan for duty are required to participate in a thorough orientation program aimed at educating them on the cultural aspects of Okinawan and Japanese societies.

Marines in Japan participate in more than 1,500 community relations events throughout the year, from annual festivals, to sporting events, to beach cleanups, music festivals, and more. One of the most popular community relations programs is the Volunteer English Language Teaching Program where Marines and Sailors help teach conversational English to elementary school children throughout Okinawa.

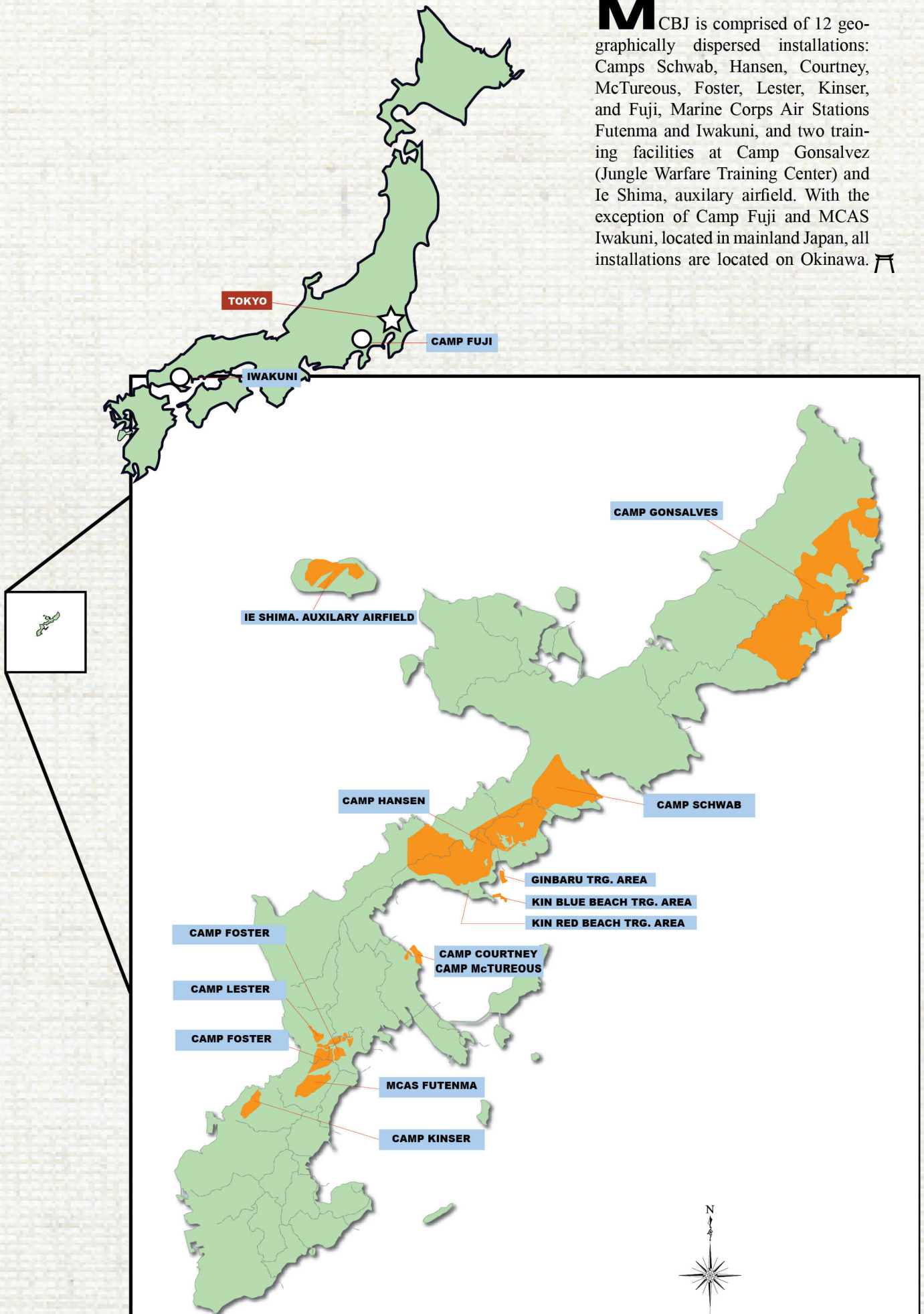
We have a tradition of contributing to the community. Private military-affiliated organizations make numerous contributions to local charities throughout the year. For example, the American Women's Welfare Association, which is supported by proceeds from the sale of goods from gift shops managed

by military spouses, donated over \$2 million to local Okinawa charities in the past 10 years. 



“One of the most popular community relations programs is the Volunteer English Language Teaching Program”

MCBJ is comprised of 12 geographically dispersed installations: Camps Schwab, Hansen, Courtney, McTureous, Foster, Lester, Kinser, and Fuji, Marine Corps Air Stations Futenma and Iwakuni, and two training facilities at Camp Gonsalvez (Jungle Warfare Training Center) and Ie Shima, auxiliary airfield. With the exception of Camp Fuji and MCAS Iwakuni, located in mainland Japan, all installations are located on Okinawa. ㄸ



III MEF/MCBJ

Command Structure

